Distr.
GENERAL

GC.6/12/Add.1
22 September 1995

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL CONFERENCE

Sixth session
Vienna, 4-8 December 1995
Item 9 (f) of the provisional agenda

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION ACTIVITIES: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Report by the Director-General

Addendum

Summary

Updates document GC.6/12-IDB.14/17 submitted through the fourteenth session of the Industrial Development Board and reports on the latest progress on ECDC/TCDC programmes and activities through 31 August 1995.

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Distr.: 3 October 1995

Introduction

1. In compliance with General Conference resolution GC.5/Res.10 on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (ECDC/TCDC), a report prepared for the General Conference on the implementation of the resolution (GC.6/12-IDB.14/17) was submitted to the Industrial Development Board at its fourteenth session. The Board, in its decision IDB.14/Dec.18, took note of that report and requested the Director-General (a) to continue his efforts to implement resolution GC.5/Res.10; (b) to strengthen the programme for ECDC/TCDC, *inter alia*, by seeking additional extrabudgetary resources, and by developing and strengthening the capabilities of the recipient developing countries; and (c) to continue his efforts to increase the utilization of experts, equipment and services as well as training and other human resource development facilities from developing countries in connection with UNIDO technical cooperation activities. The Board also requested the Director-General to report on progress made in the implementation of the ECDC/TCDC programme to the General Conference at its sixth session. The present report thus updates the information provided in document GC.6/12-IDB.14/17 through 31 August 1995.

2. Although promotion and application of ECDC/TCDC is primarily the responsibility of the developing countries and depends largely on the policies of national Governments, over the past years considerable effort has been made by UNIDO to bring about stronger political commitment, articulate more explicitly policies, strategies and programmes, and determine funding and institutional mechanisms for ECDC/TCDC. UNIDO promotion of ECDC/TCDC is intended to engage developing countries in preparing the foundation for launching operational activities involving sharing and exchanging technical resources, capabilities and skills between two or more of those countries.

I. REGIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

3. UNIDO, in cooperation with the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey, will hold a meeting from 25 to 28 September 1995 to promote cooperation in the field of catalysts among Middle East and North African countries. Participants will review all technical and financial aspects related to a cooperation programme and are expected to conclude with a plan of action in that regard. A regional training workshop on capacity-building in technology transfer negotiations for Arab countries will be held at Amman, Jordan, in September 1995. The workshop will provide a unique opportunity for Arab countries to exchange experiences.

4. To increase awareness and opportunities for the integration of new biotechnology into traditional production processes, a workshop will be held in the Philippines during the last quarter of 1995. Through the workshop, biotechnology experts from 12 developing countries in Asia and the Pacific will gain a better awareness of the potential and risks of biotechnology, and of up-to-date information resources, especially within the region.

5. For enhancing capacity and capabilities of small-scale workshops in prototype design and manufacturing and hydraulic maintenance press testing, a 10-week demonstration programme will be organized within the African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing for 32 engineers and technicians from the Congo, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia. Aimed at promoting technical cooperation among African countries, it is also envisaged that this project will lead to the establishment of an African network for agro-metal and engineering industries.

II. INFORMATION NETWORK FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

6. Establishing an industrial and technological information network requires cooperation commitment among network members and also implies data sharing and data exchange. Through a second phase of the Industrial and Technological Information Bank (INTIB) network for Africa (IDB.12/3, para. 11), the INTIB/IRMS (Information Resources Management System) standard database is being installed to provide network members with basic working tools to facilitate data exchange. A regional seminar on data management and network will be held in the last quarter of 1995 at Dakar, Senegal, that will provide basic knowledge on the use and application of INTIB computerized database and also guidelines for networking.

III. ASSISTANCE TO THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

7. To enhance capability in food quality control and testing, UNIDO and the Asian Institute of Technology co-sponsored a training programme at Bangkok, Thailand, from 14 August to 1 September 1995, on quality management in the food industry for LDCs in the region.

8. Approval was also obtained for the second phase of a project for promotion and development of agro-related metalworking industries for LDCs in the Asia and Pacific region. Promotion of institutional linkages among national networks, and promotion of active use of information and services from regional agro-related metalworking projects are particularly stressed. More than $800,000 has been injected into this project, benefiting Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Solomon Islands and Western Samoa.

IV. EXPERTS, EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

9. Efforts continue to maximize the recruitment of experts from developing countries in UNIDO technical cooperation. Appointments of experts from countries included in lists A and C[1] during the period 1 January - 31 August 1995 totalled 534, or 39 per cent of the UNIDO total of 1,366 for the period. During the same period, 459 purchase orders were placed with developing country firms (45 per cent of the UNIDO total and 50 per cent in value terms), and 93 contracts awarded (totalling 60 per cent of UNIDO contract awards or 26 per cent in terms of value).

V. ECDC/TCDC FINANCING

10. While most ECDC/TCDC activities are financed from the Industrial Development Fund and other voluntary contributions, support continues from the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation. A recent example of a large-scale co-financed trust fund project includes, as one component, the financing of experts by the Republic of Korea to assist in the formulation of a medium-term industry and trade strategy in Viet Nam.

VI. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE CONFERENCE

11. The Conference may wish to take note of the present report.

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[1] The countries included in lists A and C of Annex I to the UNIDO Constitution are shown in document GC.6/17.